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NIO/EUROPE  
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DCI Regional Meeting -- 2 October 1985

1. Eastern Europe: Less Awed By Gorbachev

Despite Gorbachev's mastery in reshuffling the Soviet hierarchy, skepticism regarding his policy impact is beginning to emerge from Eastern Europe.

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- Todor Zhivkov's public boozing and womanizing in front of the diplomatic corps last week seems to defy Gorbachev's new morality dictums. No saint, Zhivkov usually is more discreet but he now is apparently not worried about the consequences.
- At about the same time, Prague omitted from its media coverage of Gorbachev's carefully crafted Time magazine interview some of the language calling for improved US-Soviet ties.
- Last week a Yugoslav correspondent resident in Moscow also aired publicly for the first time the existence of milder forms of criticism of Gorbachev.

One common thread of these reports is that these regimes are coming to believe the limits of Soviet tolerance towards them have not become any tighter.

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